

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising a transponder, programmable or not, enclosed in a shell, said shell comprising an open-ended or blind axial transverse passage for a fixing means to the ear of the animal, characterised in that:wherein the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial passage opening for the fixing means, and the transponder is enclosed within the two half-shells.

~~the transponder is fixed in place without compression between the two half shells using a glue,~~

~~the two half shells are assembled by a laser weld.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the upper half-shell comprises a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis, wherein a cylindrical wall projects outwards on a planar wall and is extended by an inner cylindrical wall below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding lower cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half-shell being connected ~~to~~on its periphery to a vertical cylindrical wall connecting it to the lower half-shell.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the lower half-shell comprises a lower cylindrical inner wall around its median axis corresponding to that of the sleeve of the upper half-shell and providing the transverse passage,

that it is provided with an internal projection,  
that it is provided with a projecting peripheral rim cooperating with the orthogonal peripheral wall of the upper half-shell.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 4, wherein an internal projection is placed between the lower internal cylindrical wall and the peripheral rim.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 4, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than the clear height within the button tag.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)      ~~An~~The electronic button tag according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the lower cylindrical of the lower half-shell has a conical form with an upper shoulder enabling the tip of the punch of a male panel tag to be locked in.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 7, wherein the sleeve is blind on the upper half-shell.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the ends of the vertical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores (10).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the processor of the transponder is folded down onto the coil, the processor being fixed into position by the glue.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 9, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the lower half-shell is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into the external shoulder of the vertical wall of the upper half-shell.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended)      An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle including a transponder, programmable or not, enclosed in a shell, the shell being composed of a first shell portion and a second shell portion which are assembled together at a median plane, the transponder is ~~fixed in place~~enclosed within without compression between the two shell portions using an adhesive and the two shell portions are assembled by means of a laser weld, and the two shell portions are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, the second shell portion including a sleeve with a central opening around a median axis, said sleeve is blind and projects outwards from one side of a planar wall and is extended by a cylindrical wall extending from an opposite side of said planar wall to connect with a cylindrical wall of the first shell portion, a planar wall of the first shell portion being connected at its periphery to the second shell portion.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 13 wherein the cylindrical wall of the first shell portion provides a passage for a punch of a male tag for fixing the tag to the ear of an animal, said cylindrical wall of the first shell portion having a conical form and providing a shoulder within the sleeve to enable a tip of the punch of a male tag to be locked in the sleeve.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14, wherein an internal projection is located between the cylindrical wall and a peripheral rim of the second shell position, the internal projection being of a height less than the distance between the planar walls of the first and second shell portions.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14 or 15, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are laser welded.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 18, wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein a processor of the transponder is located on a coil, the processor being fixed into position by the adhesive.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are laser welded.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 21, wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended)      An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising:

a transponder, programmable or not, enclosed within a shell, the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial passage opening for the fixing means, the two half-shells are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, the upper half-shell has a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis forming an open-ended or blind axial passage for a fixing means to the ear of an animal, wherein a cylindrical wall below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding lower cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half shell being connected on its periphery to a vertical cylindrical wall connecting it to the lower half-shell, the transponder is fixed in place without compression between the two half-shells using a glue, the two half-shells are assembled by means of a laser weld.

**Claim 24 (Previously Presented)** The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall is provided with an internal projection that is provided with a projecting peripheral rim cooperating with an orthogonal peripheral wall of the upper half-shell.

**Claim 25 (Previously Presented)** The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein an internal projection is placed between the lower cylindrical wall and the peripheral rim.

**Claim 26 (Previously Presented)** The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than a clear height within the button tag.

**Claim 27 (Previously Presented)** The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall has a conical form with an upper shoulder enabling a tip of a punch of a male panel tag to be locked in.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein ends of the vertical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein a processor of the transponder is folded down onto the coil, the processor being fixed into position by the glue.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented)      The electronic button tag according to claim 28, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

Claim 31 (New)      The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells have substantially a same radius about a median axis.